

**OFFICE OF STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**CALIFORNIA PATIENT DISCHARGE DATA REPORTING MANUAL, THIRD**  
**EDITION**  
**For Discharge Data for the Year 1999 and 2000**

**ABSTRACT RECORD NUMBER (Optional)**

**DISCUSSION**

Format for reporting this data element on the Manual Abstract Reporting Form for discharges occurring on or after January 1, 1999:

<b>17. ABSTRACT RECORD NUMBER (Optional)</b>											

In order to identify a particular patient's record from all others in the hospital, a unique code consisting of not more than 12 alphanumeric characters may be reported. The abstract record number is optional.

When the abstract record number is reported, it:

- May be used by OSHPD and reporting hospital to identify specific records for correction and outcome studies.
- Will be deleted prior to release of public data.
- May be the medical record number.
- May include hyphens or slashes. Other special characters (e.g., period, comma, apostrophe) must not be included.
- Should be reported from the left-most position of the field. Do not fill blank spaces with zeroes.